

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]] A water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1, for microbially purifying water, consisting essentially of a processed non-synthetic material comprising:~~

~~a polysaccharide as principal component; and~~

~~nitrogen at a C/N ratio of 6 or more;~~

~~wherein the water-purifying solid material is in a porous shape and has a solubility in water that is lower compared to a corresponding unprocessed non-synthetic material.~~

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A water-purifying method, comprising placing [[the]] a water-purifying solid material for microbially purifying water according to Claim 1 in a poor-oxygen region of water to be purified, the water-purifying solid material consisting essentially of a processed non-synthetic material comprising:

a polysaccharide as principal component; and

nitrogen at a C/N ratio of 6 or more;

wherein the water purifying solid material has a solubility in water that is lower compared to a corresponding unprocessed non-synthetic material.

10. (Previously Presented) The water-purifying method according to Claim 9, wherein 0.1 to 5 g of the water-purifying solid material is added as an organic carbon source in 1 L of water to be purified.